recommendations of PM & EG. Under the revised CLASS scheme, grant-in-aid is provided only to Government and Government-aided schools. During 2001-2002, an amount of Rs. 140.74 crores had been sanctioned to 19 States/UTs. During 2002-2003, an amount of Rs. 10,29,30,000 has been released as 2nd instalment to 6 States.

Besides, as per information received from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Department of Information Technology has launched the pilot project of Vidya Vahini to integrate internet and intranet tools and computer aided techniques into the learning environment. The programme focuses on providing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, training of the teachers to use ICT for imparting education, course curriculum and other learning material to the Government/Government aided schools in the country. The Vidya Vahini Project has been implemented in 140 schools in 7 districts (20 schools in each district) and 7 teacher's training centres in six States namely :—

(i) Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

(ii) Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)

(iii) Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)

(iv) Gandhinagar (Gujarat)

(v) Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh)

(vi) Parli Vaijnath (Maharashtra)

(vii) South 24-Parganas (West Bengal)

The entire cost of providing equipments at the schools and training centres has been provided by the Government of India. The expenditure on site preparation and providing computer furniture, electricity connection and telephone connection has been borne by the State Government.

Affiliation of IT colleges

4426. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA :

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government, have any proposal to affiliate colleges and institutes that cater exclusively to Information Technology and Communication equal to IITs.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether government would plan to implement such a proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Power of affiliating colleges/institutes lies with the affiliating Universities, therefore the question of Government affiliating colleges/institutes for Information Technology does not arise.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Delay in the publication of the series "Towards Freedom"

4427. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the report "Fate of 'Towards Freedom Project' hangs in the balance as appeared in the media";

(b) if so, whether the review Committe informed the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) of their reluctance to submit a report based on incomplete documents; and

(c) if so, the action taken in detail to avoid further delay in the publication of the series "Towards Freedom"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Government is aware of the aforesaid press-report.

(b) ICHR has informed that the Committee of Experts appointed to examine the condition of manuscripts and submit a report is still in process. The Committee members have asked for more documents, but have not expressed their reluctance to submit a report.

(c) ICHR has further informed that all possible efforts are being made to expedite the matter.